



## MEXICO TRAVEL GUIDE

# Climbing mysterious Teotihuacan

**TEOTIHUACAN, MEXICO CITY.** Its origin some 2,200 years ago is shrouded in the depths of history, as are the reasons of why the great city of Teotihuacan was abandoned.

But still, the city's two mighty pyramids and the mysterious Avenue of the Dead that links them together stand as one of the greatest monuments of ancient America.

About 50 kilometers north of Mexico City are the ruins of Teotihuacan, once, historians



**AVENUE OF THE DEAD** *The ancient city's main street was once lined with fine temples. Photo: Traveling Reporter*

believe, the continent's most powerful city, home to as many as 125,000–150,000 residents.

**The city is full of mysteries** — it is a matter of debate among historians and scholars who built it as well as why it was burned to the ground. Left today is the Avenue of the Dead, Teotihuacan's main thoroughfare, lined with the foundations of once fine temples that were

used by the city's elite. Also left are the two mighty pyramids, of which the Pyramid of the Sun is the most famous.

Today, the archeological site of Teotihuacan is a must-see if you visit Mexico City. It is easy to get there by bus, and the ride north from the city centre is interesting too, as it takes you through some of the poor northern suburbs of this mega-city.


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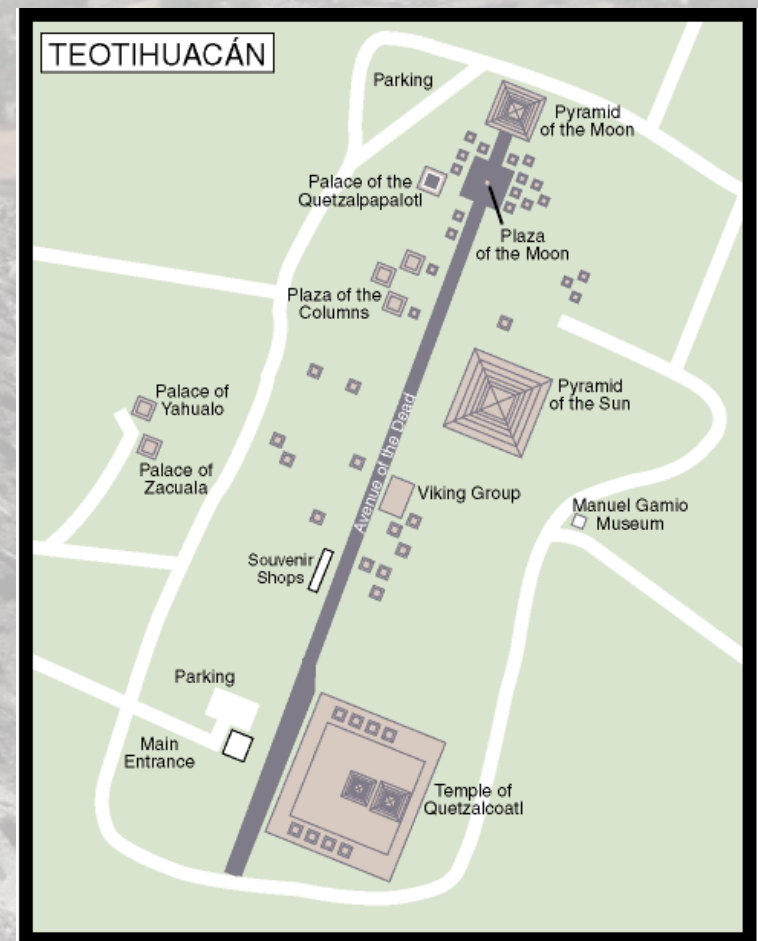




**DARING SLOPE** The walk up on of the Pyramid of the Sun offers fantastic views over the surrounding landscape. Photo: Traveling Reporter

plastic Maya statues swarm the place, as is the case with any major tourist attraction. But that shouldn't stop you from visiting Teotihuacán, as this ancient city holds some of history's largest secrets. Why was it ever built? What was its purpose? Why was it burned and abandoned?

**Historians seem unable** to decide on one single theory, instead they vary widely — there might have been famine, or civil 







**PYRAMID OF THE SUN** *The highest of the city's pyramids is the Pyramid of the Sun. Climbing it is quite exhausting. Photo: Traveling Reporter*

unrest, that caused an uprising in Teotihuacan, the poorest residents of the city's outskirts burning the palaces of the wealthy in the city centre. Or, alternatively, Teotihuacan was invaded and its residents slaughtered. But by whom?

The best view of the ruins you'll get from climbing the Pyramid of the Moon, at the far end of the *Avenue of the Dead*, although the Pyramid of the Sun is actually the largest. Its

base is said to be of roughly the same size as the largest pyramids of Egypt, although with lower height.

**Teotihuacan is a classic** must-see attraction if you visit Mexico City. Buses depart regularly from the northern bus station. Ask your hotel or hostel staff, or consult your guide book.

Story by Erik Bergin  
[erik.bergin@travelingreporter.com](mailto:erik.bergin@travelingreporter.com)



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